MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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Lebanon

Fierce fighting continued between Amal and Palestinian gunmen despite the mediation efforts of visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A Palestinian spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said 10 people were killed and 70 others were wounded in renewed shelling of the Palestinian camps in Beirut. Besharati told Amal officials that Iran "demands that a final end be put to the fighting," which has been triggered by "invisible hands" that are "hostile to Islam," according to an Iranian Embassy statement reported by Beirut radio. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said Besharati held talks with a Palestinian National Salvation Front delegation, while IRNA disclosed that he met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and with leading Muslim theologians including Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who has been linked with Hizballah. Besharati's talks with Hizballah leaders focused on the issue of the French hostages in Lebanon, according to political sources cited by the Voice of Lebanon, but the Iranian official nevertheless stressed in remarks reported by the new Voice of National Resistance radio that Iran "cannot simply order the release of the kidnapped Frenchmen," despite its strength in Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

One of two Iranian F-5's attempting to violate Iraqi airspace in the Al-Faw area was shot down by Iraqi antiaircraft fire 10 June, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio. In other action the same day, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by the radio claimed that Iraqi naval units unleashed an "effective" hit on a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast. For Iran's part, a military report carried by Tehran radio stated that Iran repulsed a "desperate" Iraqi attack in the Mehran area 9 June, killing or wounding hundreds of Iraqis and knocking out 12 Iraqi tanks. The report also said Iranian bombers raided Iraqi positions in the Al-Faw sector that day.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni addressed officials in an 'Id al-Fitr speech broadcast by Tehran radio, stressing the need to maintain "equality" between the authorities and the people, who should be allowed to participate in running the country. Shortcomings should be pointed out, he said, though the government, legislature, judiciary, and clergy "should not be weakened in the process" and no attention should be paid to "satans who are trying to create discord" in the cities. Acknowledging that "there was a time when the situation was chaotic and everything was in ruins," Khomeyni said everything is now "proper and right" with "all aspects" being "taken care of."

The Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition group stated that its military buildup on the Iranian border is linked with preparations for a "general uprising" throughout Iran, KUNA reported.

Iraq-France

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with his French counterpart Jean-Bernard Raimond in Paris, Voice of the Masses radio reported, noting 'Aziz's statement after the meeting that Iraq welcomes Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi's arrival and residence in Iraq because of his calls for good neighborliness between Iran and Iraq. Speaking on French television the same day, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac affirmed that France's attempts to "normalize" relations with Iran "would not harm" Iraq, AFP reported.

In a separate development, an "informed French source" revealed to the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD* that France and Iraq signed an agreement in March for Iraq's purchase of French military helicopters, WAM reported.

Syria

A 10 June report by Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* stated that President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Moscow shortly to hold talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and to sign the military contracts agreed on during Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit, according to QNA.

Libya

Libya "might allow" the Soviet Union to set up military bases on Libyan territory in the "near future," according to Mario Capana, secretary general of the Italian opposition Democrat Proletaria Party in a statement cited by KUNA. Capana, who recently returned to Italy following a 1-week visit to Libya, disclosed that a "senior-level" Soviet military and political delegation will arrive in Libya shortly to discuss bilateral relations.

In another development, JANA castigated Jordan's King Husayn for meeting "Mosad agent Reagan" in Washington, urging the Jordanian people to prevent Husayn from returning "from his master's den."

Athens Shooting

The DFLP holds Israeli intelligence agents responsible for the assassination of DFLP Central Committee member Ahmad Nazal in Athens 9 June, Radio Monte Carlo reported. However, Athens radio reports on the shooting said the victim was an Algerian and did not link him with the DFLP.

DRA

A BAKHTAR political observer denied XINHUA's "fake and slanderous" report alleging that PDPA General Secretary Najibullah was wounded during a "conflict" in Kabul.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Border Forces Nab 3 Pakistanis With Defense Data

BK100929 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] New Delhi, June 10 (AFP) — Indian Border forces in Kashmir have caught three Pakistanis trying to cross back into Pakistani-held Kashmir with data on Indian defense installations, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Tuesday.

Official information quoted by the agency from Jammu said the three were associated with Pakistan's military intelligence and were nabbed in the border district of Rajouri at an undisclosed date. Documents and maps containing data on Indian defence installations were seized from them, PTI said. They were identified as Tufail Hussain, Mohammad Qader and Mohammad Azam.

India and Pakistan have been locked in a long dispute over possession of Kashmir since the subcontinent's independence from the British in 1947. They have fought two wars over Kashmir, the first one shortly after independence and the second in 1965.

Five Pakistanis Wounded in Siachen Glacier Area

BK100432 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] New Delhi, June 10 (AFP) — Five Pakistani soldiers were wounded Friday in artillery exchanges with Indian troops in the remote Himalayan Siachen Glacier area, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Quoting official reports from Srinagar, capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the newspapers said talks were due to open between the two countries Tuesday on the disputed Siachen Glacier area.

Jammu and Kashmir has been disputed over by Pakistan and India since independence in 1947, when Pakistan invaded what had been a princely state under the British Raj. The two countries fought over Kashmir again in 1965.

A line of control delineated bilaterally following further hostilities in 1971 is still the subject of regular clashes. Official Indian figures put the numbers killed since May 1985 at about 150 — more Pakistanis than Indians. In addition dozens have died on both sides in avalanches and bad weather.

The original state, which is predominantly Moslem, is divided into about two thirds in India and one third in Pakistan.

Further Reportage on Golden Temple, Punjab Situation

Dissident Akali Leader Demands Elections

BK071619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 86

[Text] The dissident Akali leader, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, has demanded that the Center orders fresh elections to the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak — Sikh Temple Management — Committee] immediately. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh, he said these elections are overdue for the last 2 years. Mr Badal said the new body of the SGPC should decide suitable action and means for keeping the sanctity of the religious places.

Referring to the agreement reached between the chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana in New Delhi yesterday, Mr Badal said Haryana should not be allowed to retain Chandigarh as its capital for more than 2 years after its merger with Punjab.

'Prohibitory Orders' Issued

BK091603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Text] In Haryana, district authorities have been directed to proclaim prohibitory orders wherever necessary. An official spokesman told our correspondent in Chandigarh today that this has been done as a precautionary measure to maintain peace and communal harmony in the state.

Over 1,400 BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party] workers from Haryana courted arrest in New Delhi today. They were demanding deployment of the Army in some districts of Punjab. Those who courted arrest included the BJP general secretary, Mr Kedar Nath Sawhney; the BJP secretary, Mr Suraj Bhan, and the Haryana BJP president, Dr Mangal Sen. All of them were released later. Today was the 3d day of the BJP agitation.

The BJP president, Mr L.K. Advani, has in a telegram tc the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, urged him to take immediate action to protect the lives of innocent people from terrorists. He said his party has received appeals from the residents of Jandiala Guru in Amritsar District alleging that they were being terrorized to migrate from Punjab.

Two Border Security Men Killed in Manipur Ambush

BK070645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jun 86

[Text] In Manipur, two BSF [Border Security Forces] personnel were killed and six injured in an ambush on the new Imphal-Ukhrur road yesterday. According to the DIG [District Inspector General] of police Mr D. Gante two BSF trucks carrying 52 persons were (?held) by gunmen who hurled hand grenades and sprayed bullets with automatic weapons. Combing operations are on to track down the miscreants.

INDIAN EXPRESS on Refugee Influx From Bangladesh

BK071147 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 May 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Chakma Influx"]

[Text] The clashes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts between men of the Bangladesh Rifles and settlers from the plains on the one hand and Chakma and Tripuri tribals on the other are doubtless an internal affair of Bangladesh. India, however, cannot help feeling concerned when these have led to the influx, according to the latest computation, of 11,000 tribal refugees into Tripura.

The refugees cannot be allowed to become India's responsibility. Even their prolonged presence in the State could further exacerbate the existing ethnic tensions that are a major cause of the insurgency led by the Tripura Tribal National Volunteers. India, therefore, has every right to expect that Dhaka will not only take back the refugees but do its best to prevent any such exodus in the future.

The Bangladesh government traces the problem to the depredations of the Shanti Bahini which has created a climate of violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and led to counter-measures by the Bangladesh Rifles. This, however, does not absolve it of its responsibility for finding a peaceful solution. The Buddhist Chakmas, who mainly constitute the Shanti Bahini, have for some time sought autonomy for the Chittagong Hill Tracts in order to protect their distinctive culture and way of life which, they feel, are threatened by Muslim settlers from the plains.

The tensions, which in some part predate Partition, were heightened by the support given by the Chakma "Raja" Tridib Roy to Pakistan during the Bangladesh war. "Raja" Tridib Roy fled to Pakistan before the liberation but the bitterness his action created still lingers.

Clearly the situation demands a great deal of tact, moderation and wisdom on Dhaka's part. Unfortunately, its policy, which combines settlement of the Hill Tracts by immigrants from the plains with police action by the Bangladesh Rifles has if anything heightened tribal apprehensions. India is also grappling with Tribal National Volunteer and Mizo National Front guerrillas who slip across the border into the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where they have taken shelter in the jungle.

In the last analysis, peace and tranquillity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in Mizoram and Tripura are not unrelated. Mutual cooperation between the two countries would be in the common interest. Meanwhile, the repatriation of Chakma refugees now in Tripura to Bangladesh has to be arranged immediately. Once the monsoon arrives, they could be stranded for months as the terrain often becomes impassable and movement is difficult.

Spokesman Condemns RSA Attack on Angolan Port

BK061459 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1429 GMT 6 Jun 86

[Text] The official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on June 6, 1986:

We are shocked at South Africa's brazen and unprovoked attack on Angolan port of Namibe which reportedly resulted in sinking of an Angolan ship and damage to its oil and harbour installations. Some other ships were also damaged.

This latest instance of Pretoria's aggression by installments against a peaceful, independent non-aligned country shows that the racist regime will stop at nothing to de-stabilise, by all possible means, neighbouring sovereign African states. It also shows that South Africa is extending its aggression to various parts of Angola, including its economic infrastructure, in clear violation of its own obligations under the Lusaka accord of 1984 with Angola.

The Government of India strongly condemns South Africa's continuing acts of aggression against Angola and calls upon the international community to take effective action to stop these outrages. There is no other alternative but to apply comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime. We extend our deep sympathy to Angola and express our solidarity and support to its government and people in the face of these heavy odds. We are confident that the struggle against apartheid will be intensified and that the people of South Africa will soon be able to put an end to this hated system which has been at the root of so much oppression and injustice within South Africa and aggression in the region.

Vice President Leaves for France 10 June

BK100314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] The vice president, Mr Venkataraman, left New Delhi for Paris a short while ago to take part in the concluding function of the Festival of India in France. During his 5-day stay there, he will also meet the French president, Mr Mitterrand, and have talks with the French prime minister, Mr Jacques Chirac; the foreign minister; and other leaders.

Delhi Commentary on Trade Ties With USSR

BK061419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 6 Jun 86

[Commentary by Raghunath Raina, economic commentator]

[Text] An India-USSR Chamber of Commerce was inaugurated in New Delhi this week. It will bring about a still closer relationship between the two trading partners and seek to upgrade further the economic ties between India and the Soviet Union.

The setting up of the Chamber of Commerce is a logical step in the growing economic relations between the two nations. Over the last 40 years the trade between India and the Soviet Union has not only reached a new peak, it has also undergone a qualitative change. In sheer volume India-Soviet trade has registered a phenomenal growth.

Last year the trade turnover between the two countries reached 4.4 billion rupees and one-fifth of Indian exports were to the Soviet Union. In some of the Soviet imports Indian share is as high as 70 to 80 percent.

What is important is that in an uncertain international trade environment India-Soviet trade is most stable and dynamic. It is growing at the rate of about 15 to 20 percent annually, one of the highest rates of growth India has achieved with any country.

Among the developing countries, India today occupies first place in trade with the USSR. From about 13 million rupees in 1953-54, the trade turnover between the two countries last year was around 46.2 billion rupees. Significantly, the Soviet market has considerable capacity to keep absorbing the Indian products.

There are many reasons for the close India-Soviet economic cooperation. One of them is historical. As India's Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi pointed out at a function in 1984, when the rest of the world refused to help us, the Soviet Union came forward to help us build the foundations of our industries, and this willingness extended, he said, not only to industrial development, but also to defense and science and technology.

An equally important reason for this phenomonal growth in India-Soviet economic cooperation, is the terms of trade. India's national currency, rupees, which the USSR receives from India through the sale of its products, or the rupees it received in payment of services are fully used by the USSR to buy Indian products. Thus, in its trade with the Soviet Union, India never faces the problem of having to pay back its debts in free convertible currency as the case in its trade relations with the Western countries.

The mutually advantageous nature of Soviet-Indian trade has many features. Firstly, its planned character insures stable growth in the exchange of goods, while increasing the products and the prospects of further expansion of trade. Secondly, the principle of balanced trade and rupee payment does not create a debt problem.

In the early years of Soviet-Indian trade, the USSR supplied to India plants and machineries for development projects. This gave an impetus to the development of steel industry and also power, oil, and other industries.

In the 1970, India developed its own heavy engineering industry and had gradually started reducing the imports of machines and equipment. However, its demand for raw materials began to increase in order to fully utilize the industrial capacity it had built up. As far as Soviet Union is concerned, its imports of Indian goods have reached a new peak.

During the 1976-1980 long-term trade agreement, the USSR imported from India 80 percent of its tea, 50 percent of its coffee, 100 percnet of its cashew nuts, 20 percent of its tobacco, and 83 percent of its jute requirements.

This should not give the impression that the Soviet Union is importing only raw materials from India. Its import of manufactured goods has also gone up. The number of items bought by the USSR from India has increased from 20 in 1954 to 100 in 1984. Of these, about 50 percent are manufactured goods.

Every year the USSR increases its purchases from India of different kinds of engineering products, like garage equipment, (?suction), and automobile storage batteries, polygraphic equipment, mechanical assembly equipment, thermo containers, and boilers. In 1983, for instance, the USSR bought from India engineering goods worth 2 billion rupees.

The USSR is now taking part with India in supplying equipment to third countries for industrial projects being built with Soviet cooperation.

The setting up of the India-Soviet Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi is, thus, a milestone in the growing trade relations between the two countries. It will prove crucial to the implementation of the long-term agreement, which Mr Rajiv Gandhi signed in Moscow last December. This lays down the main direction for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation up to the end of this century.

AFGHANISTAN

XINHUA Issues 'Fabricated' Najibullah Story

LD100525 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] Kabul, June 9, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: The Chinese news agency XINHUA has reported from Islamabad that Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA, CC has allegedly been wounded in the course of some "conflict" which took place in Kabul. This information is a pure lie.

To give some credibility to the fabrication, XINHUA refers to the source of some Afghan press agency. There is only one news agency in the DRA, namely BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY (BIA), which, of course, has not and could not release any such news. So we have another lie.

It is important that such a fake and slanderous report, fabricated by the Chinese media, has been released by XINHUA from the capital of Pakistan, on whose territory, as is known, more than one hundred camps and bases have been set up, where, under the patronage of the Pakistani authorities, the US CIA and the secret services of some Western countries, the terrorist bands which invade the territory of sovereign Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, are being formed, trained and equipped.

Being unable to achieve their sinister aims with the help of military intervention, the enemies of the DRA have intensified their propaganda war against Afghanistan. They forge shameless slanders and supply to certain mass media, greedy for rotten anti-Afghan sensations, with malicious inventions. The story released by XINHUA was the latest of such fictions and has totally misfired and put the Chinese news agency in great confusion and embarrassment.

NEPAL

AFP: Parliament Convenes; New Government Formed

BK091340 Hong Kong AFP in English 091315 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Excerpts] Katmandu, June 9 (AFP) — Nepal's national parliament (Panchayat) convened here Monday for its first session following a general election, as King Birendra nominated five government members, including the interim premier, to Panchayat seats.

Monday's appointments, officially announced only hours before the new Panchayat session opened, ensured that interim Prime Minister Nagendra Parsad Rijal and four other government members could keep their posts pending the formation of a new government.

The Panchayat unanimously elected experienced politician Navaraj Subedi, 46, generally considered a liberal, as Panchayat chairman, to conduct the business of the 140-member house, Panchayat sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSEE. Mr. Subedi had served as minister in several governments in the past 25 years, including as home minister.

A formal announcement of his election was not expected until Tuesday, the sources said.

The Panchayat is also to elect a new prime minister, but political analysts here fear the session may see a government-opposition showdown and problems in selecting a new premier. Leading candidates for the premiership include former prime minister Lokendra Banhadur Chand and former Panchayat speaker Rajeswore Devkota, but it is not clear if either commands enough support to win a clear victory, analysts say here.

The royal nominees named Monday apart from Mr. Rijal were Tourism, Public Works and Transport Minister Krishna Raj Aryal, Water Resources and Agriculture Minister D.P. Adhikari, Minister of State for Finance Bharat Bahadur Pradhan and Minister of State for Home and Local Administrations Lila Raj Bista.

Four government members were not appointed to Panchayat seats, which meant they would be forced to resign their portfolios. They were Foreign Minister Ranadhir Subba; Beda Nanda Jha, minister for commerce and industry; Achyut Raj Regmi, the minister of state for communications; and Narendra Nath Banstola, the minister of state for forest and soil conservation.

PAKISTAN

Talks With India on Siachen Glacier To Begin 10 June

BK101025 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] The second round of India-Pakistan talks on Siachen Glacier is to be resumed in New Delhi tomorrow. The Pakistan delegation for the talks, led by Defense Secretary Ijlal Haider Zaidi, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon.

Antiterrorism Squad Set Up in Frontier Province

BK090305 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Text] North-West Frontier Province Chief Minister Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan has said that a special squad has been set up to check terrorist activities in the province.

In an interview in Peshawar, he said that a new strategy is being formulated to suppress terrorism. He hoped that the squad will investigate into such activities and contain them.

SRI LANKA

AFP: Tamil Separatists Call for Indian Intervention

BK061642 Hong Kong AFP in English 1642 GMT 6 Jun 86

[Text] Madras, India, June 6 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Tamil separatist party appealed to India Friday to immediately intervene to stop what it called the "systematic genocide" of Tamils living in Trincomalee District by the Sri Lankan Army.

S.C. Chandrahasan, founder of the Organisation for Protection of Tamils of Eelam from Genocide, said an army campaign against Tamils which began on May 30 was continuing.

Militant members of Sri Lanka's 2.5-million Tamil minority population are seeking to establish a separate state on the north and east of the island, alleging discrimination at the hands of the Sinhalese majority.

Meanwhile, several separatist parties dismissed as "useless" an effort by the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party to hold an all-party conference in Colombo to find a solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem. M.K. Eelaventhan, general secretary of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF), described it as an "all Sinhalese party meeting to galvanize opinion in favour of the continued onslaught on Tamils."

Appapillai Amirthalingam, general secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front, the largest of all the Tamil parties, said he did not expect "anything positive to emerge" from the meeting. All of the Tamil parties have reportedly decided not to attend the meeting, which has been endorsed by Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene.

Gandhi's Views on Tamil Issue Conveyed to Colombo

BK090904 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 9 Jun 86

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, June 9 (AFP) — India's prime minister Monday conveyed his response to Sri Lankan proposals to settle the Tamil separatist issue, which has claimed at least 27 lives in the past five days, official sources said.

At least 25 separatists and two Sri Lankan soldiers died in fighting in the northern Kilinochchi area which occurred when troops pursued Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas who had attacked a security forces camp Wednesday, the sources said. Three soldiers and "many" separatists, who are waging a campaign in the Tamil-dominated north and east, were wounded, the sources said. Six militants were killed and several had been wounded in the camp attack, with no reported casualties among the troops. No fighting was reported late Monday, after a nine-hour curfew had been put in force earlier in the day.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that radio messages from the LTTE said they had suffered more losses in Kilinochchi in terms of men and weaponry than in any other encounter with troops.

Diplomatic sources said Indian envoy Jyotindra Nath Dixit Monday had passed on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's views on the Sri Lankan government proposals for provincial autonomy for the Tamils and the Tamil issue in general. Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils form a minority in the Sinhala-dominated Indian Ocean island nation.

The envoy during a 40-minute meeting with President Junius Jayewardene gave him a "substantive and detailed response" to a May 31 message from the Sri Lankan leader, the sources said.

Mr Dixit told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he could not disclose the details of the message or the content of his talks with President Jayewardene, but the diplomatic sources said Mr Gandhi's message covered several areas. Colombo has offered the Tamils a peace package giving them maximum devolution of power allowed within the country's constitution, principally by setting up elected provincial councils. India in the past few years has been serving as mediator between Colombo and the separatist groups based in Southern India to solve the issue.

In a message last month, Mr Gandhi urged Colombo to halt military operations against the separatists. President Jayewardene replied that he was ready to stop if the separatists stopped their violence, and he agreed this month to convene a conference of all political parties to discuss the issue.

Official sources here Monday denied a statement from the Tamil Information Centre in Madras, southern India, that the air force had bombed and destroyed a school and Hindu temple in the fighting in Kilinochchi. "We never destroyed the school. The terrorists blew up part of the school before withdrawing, thinking that we would occupy it," a source said, adding that separatists were hiding in the temple and shooting at soldiers who shot back.

Indian Envoy Conveys Message

BK091112 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Text] The high commissioner for India in Sri Lanka, J.N. Dixit, met President J.R. Jayewardene at the president's house this morning and conveyed a message from the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. This was in response to the message which Mr Jayewardene had sent to the Indian premier through the high commissioner a week ago.

AFP: Government To Invite TULF to Ethnic Talks

BK100653 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] Colombo, June 10 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government is expected to invite the main Tamil political party to discuss the country's troubling ethnic issue at a multi-party conference, well informed sources said Tuesday. A decision to invite the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) may be taken at the weekly cabinet meeting Wednesday, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The ministers are also expected to fix a date for the initial meeting, which is expected to be next week before President Junius Jayewardene leaves for a visit to the Soviet Union June 29, the sources said.

President Jayewardene decided to call political parties for a meeting following a suggestion by the socialist Sri Lanka People's Party (SLMP) that the government hold such a session to discuss the proposals it had conveyed to India for a political settlement of the Tamil question.

Some of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million minority Tamils have been fighting for a separate state in the Tamil-dominated north and

east. At least 1,700 people have died in the past 17 months in related violence.

Wednesday's cabinet session also is expected to decide the modalities for the meeting which is unlikely to be as structured as the 1984 national roundtable conference on the question which collapsed after a year.

The main question if the TULF is invited is whether they will participate, and authoritative source said. Some analysts said Tuesday that the TULF, whose leaders live in Madras, southern India, might delegate a member in Colombo, to attend.

Partipation of the Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP) led by former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike also is not certain, and the Communist Party in a statement published Tuesday appealed to the SLFP to give up its "racist" policies and join with others to find a solution.

An authoritative source said that a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi delivered to Colombo this week in response to the Sri Lankan proposals for devolving some autonomy to the Tamil areas had produced "fresh ideas" to which President Jayewardene would reply this week.

The SLMP in suggesting the conference said it wanted the group to discuss the country's security situation and how to end the violence. Fighting last week in northern Kilinochchi between Tamil separatists and government troops left 27 people dead, including 25 separatists, and more wounded.

Tamil Group Planning Meeting in Madras

BK081155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jun 86

[Text] A major showdown is likely in the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam — PLOTE — the hardline Marxist separatist group now mainly based in Tamil Nadu. Reports reaching Colombo from the southern Indian capital, Madras, state that a crucial meeting of PLOTE's ruling circles is expected to be held in Madras this month. The leadership of Uma Maheshwaran is expected to come under severe preassure at this meeting, the reports said. The meeting has been called after the PLOTE leadership in Sri Lanka operating mainly out of the Jaffna peninsula expressed dissatisfaction with the role of PLOTE in the current political terrorist struggle to achieve Tamil Eelam.

The military commanders and others in the PLOTE ruling circle, who are living in Sri Lanka, are expected to cross over to Tamil Nadu for the meeting and the reports say that violence is not ruled out.

One source in Madras pointed out that Uma Maheshwaran has rejected the hit and run tactics of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and is preparing for a broad-based political struggle to achieve Eelam, which is their only initial objective. The sources say that the real goal of PLOTE is a Marxist state in Sri Lanka and this has been publicly stated by Maheshwaran.

Continuing Reportage on Clashes With Tamil Groups

Tamils Rounded Up in Kilinochchi

BK081430 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 8 Jun 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, June 8 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops Sunday rounded up several Tamil militants hiding in private homes and threatening civilians in northern Sri Lanka, a senior army official said.

The militants have suffered heavy casualties and a number of weapons have been seized by security forces since Tamil separatists staged an abortive attack on a security compound in the Kilinochchi District Wednesday, Cyril Ranatunga, chief of the Joint Operations Command (JOC) told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The state owned radio announced late Sunday that troops killed three separatists manning a road block in Kilinochchi Saturday and recovered several weapons.

A nine-hour curfew was imposed on the Kilinochchi District during Sunday's search for Tamil militants who had gone to ground after Wednesday's attack, in which six militants were killed and several wounded.

The Tamil militants had brought reinforcements into the area from the neighbouring Mullativu and Jaffna areas in the Northern Province to help their colleagues, security sources said.

Lieutenant General Ranatunga, who returned to Colombo after visiting Kilinochchi Sunday, said he could not immediately give detailed figures as to how many separatists had been rounded up during Sunday's sweep of private homes. He said that it was unlikely that a curfew would be reintroduced in the area Monday.

Fierce Fighting Detailed

BK090335 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 20 civilians have been killed and over 75 injured in fierce fighting in the northern district of Kilinochchi. At least 1,000 Tamils have been rendered homeless, and communication was disrupted resulting in acute food shortage in the area.

A 9-hour curfew was imposed during the day yesterday as militants launched a fresh attack on the security ofrces camp. Reinforcements of security forces were sent to the camp. Intense fighting was reported in the area throughout the day. A general officer commanding Joint Operations Command, Lieutenant General Cyril Ranatunga, was directing the security forces operations.

Kilinochchi remained under information blackout (?due to) complete failure of telecommunication facilities. The worst hit by this violence are the 40,000 residents of the predominantly Tamil farming town of Kilinochchi. The government claimed that 2 security forces personnel have been killed as against 25 militants in the clashes so far.

6 Separatists Captured in Vavuniya

BK071215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jun 86

[Text] Six Marxist-oriented separatist terrorists believed to be members of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam l — PLOTE — were captured by Sri Lankan government troops during a cordon and search operation in (Tantrikulam), Vavuniya, on Thursday.

Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that at the interrogation it was revealed that one terrorist was a hardcore member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE — who had participated in the bomb blast in Vavuniya town which killed six policemen some time back. It was reported that security forces have detained 135 persons for screening.

Israel 'Blackmailing' U.S. in Saudi Arms Sale

GF081843 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jun 86

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] The approval of the arms deal to Saudi Arabia by the U.S. Congress is not a sudden or strange thing. In previous discussions of this issue we expected that Congress would approve the deal in the end after a scenario of rejection and argument over approval. The deal has not at any time constituted and will not constitute a threat to the security and safety of the Zionist entity. Even the presence of the Stinger missiles in this deal will not constitute a threat. What is the value of dozens of missiles that are fired from the shoulder, and what danger can these missiles constitute to the security and safety of the Zionist entity, which is fully equipped with arms? Can you believe the claims of the U.S. Administration represented by the White House, Congress, Pentagon and CIA that these weapons may find their way to the Palestinian resistance at a time when the U.S. Administration has set up a special program for periodically inspecting the Saudi weapons and ammunition and for precisely ensuring the use of these weapons?

Brothers and sisters, the whole story is that the Zionist lobby is blackmailing the U.S. Administration. Knowing that the approval was definite, the Zionist lobby capitalized on the deal to blackmail the U.S. Administration. What the Zionist lobby wants is further urgent aid to the Zionist entity in return for approval. This is what has indeed happened. There will be further urgent aid.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Commanders on Iraqi Defeats

LD0882222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Jun 86

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, this afternoon addressed a select group of commanders and troops of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces returning from Hajj 'Umran, the northwest, Sharhani, and Zobeydah, saying: Today, every one admits that Iraq has suffered a strategic defeat in the Al-Faw region. In the past Iraq tried to justify its defeats. For instance, when the Iraqi forces were disgracefully driven back as the result of heroism demonstrated by the Islamic forces, Iraq claimed that it was a tactical retreat.

The Majlis speaker then added: Before the "Val-Fajr-8" operation not once did the Iraqis admit their own defeat -- even after the victory over Khorramshahr. Then, referring to Iraq's defeat in Al-Faw, Hashemi-Rafsanjani recalled the claims made by Iraqi commanders promising to retake the area, saying: Not only did the Iraqi forces fail to advance even one step in this area, but they had to retreat further every day. Now the Iraqis are using barbed wire and ditches as obstacles — methods they have been applying for some time on other warfronts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Considering these successive defeats, Iraqi commanders need to justify their existence to build up morale. They have even recruited mercenaries, trying to make some sort of a show. But what our brothers managed to do in Hajj 'Umran can serve as a lesson for the Iraqis. Human casualties as well as loss of materiel, such as the destruction of more than 50 helicopters in an attempt to retake Hajj 'Umran, prove Iraq's weakness.

Alluding to the defeat suffered by the Iraqi forces during the Hajj 'Umran operations, the Majlis speaker said: This defeat could prove to be a turning point in Iraq's new strategy; namely, they have realized that their calculations might have the reverse effect.

Thanks be to God, this reverse process began after the resistance put up by you and your brothers in the Guards Corps. The Army and the Corps collectively fought in well-organized coordination, demonstrating that this defense power is capable of changing things. I thank you for this.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: Our analysis of the war at present is that it has reached a point where neither side is willing to wait for long. As for Iraq, it must make a final attempt to prove it is capable of defending itself. As for us, we must take long strides to prove Iraq is vulnerable and is incapable of defending itself. We are at a juncture where this issue must be settled.

Referring to the enemies' plots to weaken our financial and economic power, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The fall in oil prices and attacks on our economic centers is part of the plot hatched by the major powers in the world. Having said that, we must prepare ourselves and, by dealing harsh blows, make our final statement regarding this war.

Continuing his remarks, the Majlis speaker, having stressed that the necessary facilities have been supplied it our forces, that more forces will be dispatched to the fronts, and that a'l the country's resources will be used to meet the needs of the fronts, said: We expect you to be ready, so that when the opportunity presents itself, we can bring the war to the point of victory.

The Majlis speaker then stressed the need for cooperation between all forces, saying: Our victory depends on this. Our nation will never forget that the Islamic Republic's Army never flinched, despite fighting such a war, despite a resistance lasting 5 to 6 years, despite the many martyrs and sacrifices, and despite enduring the heat and cold. In the face of all these difficulties our army remained faithful.

You must remember that should this war end in victory for us, then the character of the region will change. Our victory will result in more successive victories for Islam.

He then said: After these victories, it will be Israel's turn; it will be attacked by all world Muslims. Certainly, once Saddam falls, a holy war will shortly commence along Israel's border with Muslims entering the war. As long as this Saddam and his Ba'thist party of Iraq are in power, Israel will enjoy immunity. Our enemies and Israel's friends are trying to keep us preoccupied here. Here is a testing ground. Everything must be decided here. This depends on you.

President Addresses Military Commanders 8 June

LD091127 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, June 9, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme defence council Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i Sunday lauded the unity of army and Basij (Mobilization) Volunteer forces, saying it was the same determining factor which could end the Iraqi-imposed war triumphantly. The president was speaking to a gathering of military commanders and personnel who had played a key role in the recent Iranian victories in battlefields.

Outlining global plots hatched against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the president noted that arrogant powers were no more considering elimination of the Islamic Republic of Iran today. Rather, he said, they were making utmost efforts to affect the unity of vigilant Iranian people, including the armed forces.

Therefore, the head of the Supreme Defence Council stressed, Iranian armed forces should be conscious and not be deceived by propaganda plots of the enemy.

Musavi's Press Conference With Foreign Correspondents

LD101144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi took part in a press conference with foreign correspondents this morning and elaborated on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policies on the issue of the war, political issues and economic situation. The Central News Unit reports that Mir Hoseyn Musavi, in reply to a question from the Egyptian paper, (*AL-AHRAM*), about the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's approach to the problems originating from the war, said: After more than 5 years of fighting we have learned how to face problems. According to our plans, we will increasingly rely on our domestic resources and facilities.

The prime minister added: In view of the forecasts made in connection with the possibility of a drop in oil prices, the present low prices have not brought about any changes in our foreign exchange expenditure in connection with the war. Essential goods will be distributed on a ration basis. Along with this method, we will seriously continue to control prices.

In reply to a question from Italian correspondents of *IL GIORNALE* and *IL GIORNO* regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy behind the vast mobilization of forces and the continuation of the war, the prime minister said: We stick to certain principles which force us to punish the aggressor in any way possible. But, just as we have said before, we do not want even 1 inch of land belonging to other countries. The statement about the Islamic Republic of Iran's inclination to dominate other countries has been made by imperialism's ill-intentioned news propaganda.

In another part of this press conference, Musavi replied to a question about the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for terrorism and said: We consider Reagan's administration as the leader of world terrorism. The prime minister stressed: We categorically deny supporting terrorists, but liberation movements have our backing. We will continue to support the oppressed people of the world and this point has been mentioned in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution as well. In our view, this is supporting liberty. We will support any country, which strives for liberty, in action.

Commenting on the possibility of an American attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the prime minister said: As we have announced before, we will use all our might to respond to any kind of attack and will not hesitate to hit back at the aggressor.

Elaborating on the government's economic position, the prime minister said: We consider ourselves servants of the people and the Constitution in our guide in this respect. The Government believes that the three public, private and cooperative sectors are complementary to each other and we will try to make use of the three sectors.

In response to the question put to him by the correspondent of the Italian paper *LA REPUBBLICA* regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for some groups in Lebanon, the prime minister said: We try to support all Muslims in their struggle to gain their legitimate rights. We follow the same policy in Lebanon as well. At present, a high-ranking political delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran is visiting Lebanon in order to urge the Palestinian and Amal brothers to unite.

In conclusion, the prime minister told correspondents: You come from countries which have different values from ours. That is why what happens in our country can be very interesting and beneficial to your people. Therefore, I advise you to reflect on the values of your countries. Of course, passing judgement and placing values on these events will be left to the nations. We have always been interested in the value judgements made by liberated people of the world about events in our country. At the same time, we have always felt that the world mass media have generally adopted a hostile approach to our nation, although at times there have been alert correspondents who have helped us and contributed to a better understanding of the Islamic revolution beyond our borders.

Islamic Liberation Movements Greet Montazeri

LD061746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jun 86

[Text] The representatives of the Islamic liberation movements have sent a telegram to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the blessed presence of His Grace Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, may his blessings continue! We, the representatives of the Islamic liberation movements, while expressing gratitude and appreciation for the material and spiritual support of his holiness the imam, may his lofty shadow be extended, and of your excellency for the Islamic liberation movements, beg you, as in the past, to enrich us with your guidance to achieve the global objectives of the Islamic revolution in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, the Persian Gulf, Mauritania, Eritrea, Morrocco, and Tunisia and to assist the forces of the international Islamic revolution in bringing about a world anti-arrogance strategy vis-a-vis Zionism

and the Western and Eastern superpowers in order tp achieve the divine objectives of a government of the meek on earth!

The general council of the liberation movements once again proclaims that we have stood and will continue to stand on the side of the leader and the system of the Islamic Republic until the liberation of all the lands occupied by the Western and Eastern colonialists and until the establishment of the sovereignty of the world Islamic system! Peace and God's mercy be upon you!

Paris Envoy Briefs Musavi on Relations With France

LD071716 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 7 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi received Iranian charge d'affaires to Paris Gholam Reza Haddadi here Saturday and gave him guidelines on normalizing relations with France. The Iranian Charge D'affaires, currently here on a homecoming visit, submitted to the prime minister a report on the country of his assignment.

Tehran on Ties With France, Hypocrites' Move to Iraq

LD101252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jun 86

[Text] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said yesterday that, as far as France is concerned, normalization of relations with Iran is useful and that the trend to normalize relations is under way. He considers Iran's anger over the abuse of the right of asylum by certain Iranian refugees as justified. He did not make any allusion to the terrorist crimes committed by the Hypocrites against the Iranian people during their asylum in France and world public opinion against France for having given asylum to these terrorists.

It ought to be pointed out that the Hypocrites and their leaders who, for the past 5 years, have used France as a base to guide terrorist acts, recently moved to Baghdad.

Further Reportage on Besharati Visit to Syria

Meets With Al-Shar'

LD061645 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 6 Jun 86

[Text] Damascus, June 6, IRNA — Visiting acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati met and conferred here Thursday night with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. In the meeting, the two sides reemphasised on the need to expand Irano-Syria bilateral cooperation. They also exchanged views on regional developments.

Besharati told Al-Shar' that Iran pursues a policy of good neighborly relations with regional countries and that it has all along endeavoured to contain the war from spreading. He said the Islamic Republic would continue to abide by its commitments.

Present in the 90-minute meeting was Iran's Foreign Ministry director-general for Middle East and African Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani and a Syrian deputy foreign minister for political affairs.

Meets With Al-Asad

LD091025 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 7 Jun 86

[Text] Damascus, June 7, IRNA — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Saturday described Tehran-Damascus ties as "strategic" and said the two countries would continue consultation and exchange of ideas aimed at safeguarding their mutual interests. The Syrian president made the statements in his meeting here with a visiting Iranian delegation headed by Iran's acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati.

On recent mass media reports on Damascus, Baghdad relations, Al-Asad said his country has been always "interested in making a united entity with Iraq against the the Zionist enemy but, the policy of Baghdad regime including the imposition of war on Iran has disrupted this plan." President al-Asad said Syria has an interest to have the Islamic Iran as an anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist power standing by the Arab world.

At the meeting, the acting foreign minister submitted President al-Asad a message from his Iranian counterpart President 'Ali Khamene'i, and outlined the goals of his visit. Referring to mass media rumours of change in Iran-Syria relations and their common views, Besharati described Tehran-Damascus ties as "firm and strategic."

On the situation in Lebanon he said Iranian delegation also sought an investigation into the situation with regards to the recent message of Ayatollah Montazeri. Ayatollah Hussein 'Ali Montazeri Wednesday sent a message to theologians and militant groups in Lebanon to express concern over recent clashes over Palestinian camps.

Besharati said the Islamic Republic of Iran was anxious about the current clashes because enemies of Islam were plotting to give the fighting a Sunni-Shi'ite framework. Iran's policy is to "urge all Muslim combatants, either Shia or Sunni, to deploy all their facilities in the fight with Zionism and imperialism" he said.

The Syrian foreign minister and Iran's ambassador to Damascus were present in the two-hour talks.

Furthermore, President al-Asad said that his country was to send a delegation to Tehran in order to brief Iranian officials on the latest developments in the region in an appropriate time. President al-Asad said there have been vain efforts by certain agents to intensify crisis in Lebanon but they are doomed to fail. He said Syria's stances on important issues are well known and unchangeable, and that Syria will acknowledge these policies anywhere and anytime.

The acting foreign minister said it was unity among Lebanese forces that defeated imperialism and Zionism in their country and it was the continuation of unity which causes arrogant powers not to dare interfere in the country. The Islamic Republic

of Iran is prepared to deploy all its available resources to thwart plots hatched by enemies of Islam in Lebanon, he said.

Besharati also condemned the large scale aggression of imperialism and Zionism against countries in the region including the U.S. April 15 bombing attack on Libya and threats against Syria and Iran.

Besharati, Delegation Meet Shi'ite Leaders in Lebanon

LD091704 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Text] Beirut, June 9, IRNA — An Iranian delegation headed by acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, currently here, met and conferred with the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim theologian, Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here Monday. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed Lebanon's recent developments and ways to end clashes between Lebanese Muslim factions.

Fadlallah, lauding efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to [words indistinct] Lebanese Muslims expressed hope that the visit will remove existing difficulties.

In a separate meeting with vice-chairman of the Supreme Islamic Council of the Lebanese Shi'ite community Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din here Monday the Iranian delegation discussed recent clashes in Palestinian Camps.

The Iranian official said that his recent visit to Damascus was aimed at finding a solution to recent bashes among Muslim groups in Lebanon.

Shaykh Shams al-Din, describing the visit of the Iranian delegation as "significant", expressed hope that it would result in successful achievements for lebanese people.

The Iranian delegation also met and conferred with one of Lebanese Sunni Muslim theologian Shaykh Hasan Khalid.

Besharati and his delegation arrived here Sunday and were welcomed by a number of Lebanese religious and political personalities. In an interview with IRNA upon his arrival at the airport Sunday, Besharati praised struggles of Lebanese Muslim people against the Zionist regime. He also expressed hope that his meetings with Lebanese political and religious figures would put an end to the ongoing clashes which has already created deep concern the Islamic world.

Confers With Lebanese Prime Minister

LD092335 Tehran IRNA in English 1951 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Text] Beirut, June 9, IRNA — Iran's acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati currently here at the head of a delegation, discussed bilateral ties and latest developments of Lebanon with Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami here Sunday.

Karami welcomed visit of the Iranian delegation and expressed hope that it will be successful. Referring to recent group clashes in Lebanon, Karami termed them as a "painful reality" which only serves interest of the Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, Besharati met and conferred with Lebanon's mufti (chief religious judge) Hassan Khalid here on the same day. During the meeting Besharati stressed on Iran's efforts for the unity of Lebanese Muslims and preventing any deviant move there.

The Lebanese mufti in reply thanked the Islamic Republic's efforts for expansion of Islamic unity and said Iranian officials have done their best to solve Mulsims' problems in this crucial era. Iranian officials had also played an important role in alleviating the crisis in the encampments here last year, he added.

Tehran Cites Lebanese Hizballah, Clergy Statements

LD062237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Jun 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Hizballah of Lebanon has issued a statement in connection with the International Jerusalem Day. While praising the International Jerusalem Day, the statement says: We must heighten our war against the Zionist regime in Baghdad until its downfall. Any attempts at forcing the Islamic Iran toward peace is another step in securing the usurper entity of the Zionist regime.

In the same connection, the Muslim Clergy Society of Lebanon announced in a statement: One billion Muslims are suffering at the hands of their puppet rulers and will not accept the logic of compromise and discussions with the emeny. If these people had any freedom of action, they would uproot Israel and its supporters. Warning those who have put the ideals of Palestine to discussions, this statement adds: Nobody has the right to claim the representation of the Palestinians except the religious commander of the Muslim ummah, who has the religious responsibility of the Muslim lands and the destruction of Israel.

We urge the believers in Islam and the Muslim people of Palestine to rise against plotters who act in opposition to the Palestinian ideals and leave the levers of power to the Islam-oriented Palestinians. This statement condemned the current war of the camps and asked the Muslims to rally around their Muslim clergymen.

Navy Commander Comments on Gulf Exercises 6 Jun

LD071829 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 7 Jun 86

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., June 7, IRNA — Iran's navy held large-scale maneuvers code-name 'Term 3' in the Persian Gulf and Hormuz Strait Friday to mark the International Day of Al-Quds. Ships and helicopters of the Navy's first unit as well as Air Force fighter bombers participated in mock amphibious maneuvers in which support and anti-submarine operations were carried out.

Navy commander Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan told reporters aboard one of the frigates that the military power of the Islamic Republic has steadily increased since the victory

of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He said that Iran has once again proved that it is the most powerful country in the region.

"According to international rules we are within our rights to intercept ships and confiscate Iraqi-bound cargo," said the Captain, and added, "to this end more than 2,000 ships have so far been inspected by the Navy in the Strait of Hormuz". He said in case Iran was deprived of using the Strait, no one would be allowed to do so.

Further Details

LD080929 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Jun 86

[Excerpts] The Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran successfully ended its special maneuvers in the Persian Gulf waters yesterday. The exercise began last week in the Persian Gulf waters and Strait of Hormuz in order to improve the combat capability of the Navy. Our colleague reports from the Bandar-e 'Abbas center in this connection:

The large-scale maneuvers of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran ended after 3 days in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the Oman Sea and the strategic Strait of Hormuz with total success. The maneuvers coincided with the joint conspiracies of the United States and its mercenaries in various corners of the world.

Captain Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy, held a press and radio-television conference during the maneuvers. While stressing the determination of the Navy of Islam to guard the country's southern waters by maintaining the Navy's superiority in this region, Captain Malekzadegan said: Thanks to the absolute superiority of our country's Navy, our forces are present hundreds of kilometers beyond the region [as heard] in order to foil the conspiracies of Eastern and Western arrogance before they reach the sacred borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Such maneuvers prove the need to maintain and strengthen the combat readiness of the zealous personnel of the Navy in order to realize this objective better.

On the might and capability of our country's Navy to stand against the Iraqi Zionist enemy in sea warfare, he said: The Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is particularly great, not just at sea, but also in coastal and river warfare. Our heavy units have come face to face with the enemy in various circumstances, but, as there has been no need to do so, we have never employed more than 10 percent of our capability.

While saying that during the Iraqi-imposed war against Islamic Iran over 2,000 ships have been successfully intercepted and inspected by the first fleet of the Navy and on some occasions up to 30 ships have been searched in one day, Captain Malekzadegan added: We now come across very few ships that might be carrying goods bound for the Iraqi Zionist regime. This success is remarkable in the international arena.

On the intervention of other country's fleets stationed in the region to disrupt our operations, the Navy commander said: Thanks to efforts of our committed personnel, all missions have been performed successfully. We have inspected all the ships we wanted to and so far have not witnessed any move by any fleet in the region to interfere with our work. Certainly, if any interference occurs, we would take a decisive stand against any hostile move with all our might.

In conclusion, while paying tribute to the president and other authorities of our country for their unstinting support of the Navy for realizing self-sufficiency, the Navy commander said about the supply and manufacture of necessary parts and units: Thanks be to God, we have achieved huge successes in this field too. For instance, a prototype submarine has passed the testing phase and is now in the process of being completed. It is hoped that this project will be completed, thanks to efforts of various naval organs and experts, and in the very near future we will have our submarine.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Attack on Mehran Repulsed

LD092123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Jun 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave warriors of the corps of Islam today succeeded, thanks to our combatant's vigilance, in repulsing a desperate move by the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime's forces attacking in the Mehran operational sector. The enemy attack was fully repulsed, with hundreds of enemy dead or wounded. The combatants of Islam also captured a large number of Iraqi troops, and so far 12 of them have been taken behind the battlelines. Also, in the course of today's clash, 10 enemy tanks were hit and destroyed by the fire of the army of monotheism. Our forces also captured two enemy tanks intact.

On the basis of the same report, the strategic jetty of Umm Qasr in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector today came under intense long-range artillery fire by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps causing heavy damage.

At 1358 hours today, the Air Force pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran, flying several of their fighter-bombers, bombed the Zionist enemy's concentration points and weapon emplacements on the other side of the Al-Faw operational sector. After inflicting heavy losses on the Iraqi forces, they safely returned to their bases.

Fire from the coastal artillery unit of the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, on the other side of the Al-Faw operational sector and Minu Island set ablaze and destroyed 3 large ammunition depots, 1 observation post, 16 bunkers, 26 ambush trenches, 3 tanks, 5 loaders and bulldozers, 1 152-mm gun, several vehicles, and 2 katyushas of the Iraqi forces.